

## Testimony of Carmine Scotece, Butler County Human Services Director

- Testifying on behalf of the Mental Health/Mental Retardation Program Administrators Association of Pennsylvania, an Affillate of the County Commissioners Association of Pennsylvania
- Will describe local issues facing County Prison and the mental health program.
  - Challenges:
    - Medicaid (largest funding source) eligibility including transition from prison to community
    - MH system is largely voluntary
    - Numbers of people in prison with some level of mental illness.
    - Mental illness does not always mean that an individual is so impaired that he is not responsible for his actions. Still require treatment.
    - Medication and professional services- cost and access
  - Gaps in service
  - Substance abuse and mental illness
- The court, the prison and the mental health program share in the frustration
- These local issues are shared across the Commonwealth
- New and innovative approaches are necessary and should be supported by the Commonwealth.
- I will be happy to address any questions that you may have.